

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
October 20, 2015
Committee- of- the- Whole
3:00 p.m.

The Chair called the meeting to order and led with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Invocation.

Members present: David Hodges, Larry Tiejema, Jim Banks, Brenda Cowling- Cronk, Scott Wirtz, Jack Shattuck and Julie Calley

Others present: Ken Bowen, Bob VanLente, Charlie Noll, John Bush, Nick Grenke, Sug Pinnow, Ray Voet, Judy Clark, Stephanie Fox and Tonda Rich

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Banks, supported by Cowling- Cronk, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

New Business

A. Departmental Reports

1. **Public Health** – Public Health Officer Ken Bowen stated that the Ionia Health Plan has been dissolved and with the funds left over he would like to see a dental clinic in Ionia. Currently, those that have no dental insurance or low income families have to travel to another county for dental services. Bowen touched on other events that have taken place in the Health Department and answered questions from the Board. (A copy of the Public Health report is on file in the Clerk’s Office).

2. **Building Codes** – Bert Gale presented the Building Codes Third Quarter Report for 2015. A brief discussion took place concerning the listed construction values in the report. Gale explained that the current BS&A program that is used doubles the values and is uncertain why that is. Gale stated that permits are up. (A copy of the Building Codes report is on file in the Clerk’s Office).

3. **Sheriff’s Department** – Undersheriff Charlie Noll discussed the completed projects at the Sheriff’s Department, the recognition of Deputies Brian Brinks and Chelsea Kasul for rescuing a lady who was trapped in her car after hydroplaning and her car was submerged in water. Noll further discussed staff changes and training and gave a brief update on Ionia County’s involvement in the human trafficking sting that recently took place in Detroit. (A copy of the Sheriff’s Department report is on file in the Clerk’s Office).

4. Drain Commissioner – Drain Commissioner John Bush presented the 2015 Annual Drain Report and answered questions from the Board. (A copy of the Drain Report is on file in the Clerk’s Office).

5. Prosecutor’s Office – No report given.

6. District Court – District Court Judge Ray Voet and Court Administrator, Sug Pinnow, gave an update on District Court. Voet stated that he has been reappointed as the Chief Judge. The Courts just went through a customer satisfaction survey which overall results show that the citizens are satisfied with the services being issued from the courts. Voet further discussed the specialty courts and stated that crime is down as well as the jail population, which in part is due to the specialty courts. Voet stated that a meeting will be held with other judges from the surrounding areas to discuss establishing a Mental Health Court in Ionia County. Voet alerted the Board that changes will be forthcoming from the Indigent Defense Commission concerning putting a plan into place on how to deal with indigent persons needing representation.

Chairperson’s Report

1. Drain Commissioner John Bush is retiring at the end of October and the County will be having a party for him on October 30th in the boardroom.

County Administrator’s Report

1. The stone bridge at Bertha Brock Park is completed and a huge thank you to Park Manager Loren Gage on his help with this project.

Moved by Cowling- Cronk, supported by Wirtz, to adjourn the meeting at 4:32 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Julie Calley, Chair

Tonda Rich, Clerk

Minutes approved on
